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18 February 1977

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MEMORANDUM FOR:

Director, OPEI
Acting Chief, PAID

FROM:

A/D/DCI/IC

SUBJECT: The B Team Report on Soviet Objectives

1. Reference is the PAID memorandum of 14 November, subject as above, requesting comments.

2. For openers, I have two personal positions:

a. Not only because of the controversy and interest generated by the Team A/Team B project, but also because I consider the topic is most important, I strongly believe that a NIE on "Soviet Grand Strategy" (however titled) should have first priority in our national estimates effort.

b. Had I been involved in the project, I would have signed the Team B report. (The fact that the Air Force footnotes to which the Team B referred favorably were mostly ones I wrote suggests this is not a new position for me.)

3. I concede the Team B paper is not as documented as I would have liked, but that may be primarily a factor of the limited time the participants had to devote to the project. Some of the participants may not be generally viewed as scholars, but for my book Tom Wolf stands close to the top of the list among Soviet scholars.

4. I fully agree with the comment (page 2 of the PAID paper) that the Team B report is "a disturbing portrayal of the intelligence record, one that calls for careful review and corrective action by all members of the Intelligence Community."

5. I have no editorial changes to propose to the 11-page draft provided me, but I consider the memorandum is incomplete. It should go to the D/DCI/IC with a concluding section that addresses "What is to be done."

6. This final section, in my view, should recommend that the DCI form a task group and charge it to develop a scholarly analysis of "Soviet Grand Strategy." Where there are differences in interpretation and alternative conclusions, these should be clearly spelled out.

7. Leadership of this task group and early completion of the task probably will be more time consuming than either the NIO/Strategic Programs or the NIO/USSR would be able to devote. Inclusion of outside scholars probably will be a must.

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8. I note the PAID memorandum states there has been little demand in the past for analysis in depth of Soviet objectives, but in view of ~~the~~ ^{the} interest which has been evidenced in the results of the Team A/Team B effort this can hardly be said to be true now.

9. If the INTELLIGENCE Community does not feel up to taking on this kind of a task after 30 years of post-World War II focus on the USSR something is basically wrong. What is needed is a landmark analysis which will clearly indicate what we know, what we think, and what we can only conjecture about. Such a study would be the basis for follow-on research and focused collection. 25X1

